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Wilmer

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(54) **PIPETTE**

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B01L 3/02 (2006.01)
G01F 22/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***B01L 3/021*** (2013.01); ***B01L 3/0224*** (2013.01); *B01L 2200/148* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC B01L 3/021; B01L 3/0224
USPC 422/100
See application file for complete search history.

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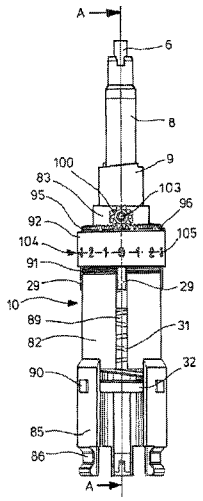
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A pipette with a rod-shaped casing, a seat, a displacement equipment, comprising a displacement chamber with a relocatable limit, a connection channel, a drive equipment for relocating the relocatable limit of the displacement chamber, coupled to the relocatable limit and having an axially relocatable lifting rod, an upper stop body, a lower stop body and a stop element on the circumference of the lifting rod for limiting the stroke of the lifting rod, an overstroke spring, a stationary screw element, and with a screw element that is relocatable in the casing, a toothing, running along a helical line with the same pitch as that of the thread of the relocatable screw element and having teeth on the upper edge of the relocatable screw element that are directed in the direction of the instantaneous axis of the relocatable screw element, a toothed driving wheel, and means for rotating the toothed driving wheel.

15 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



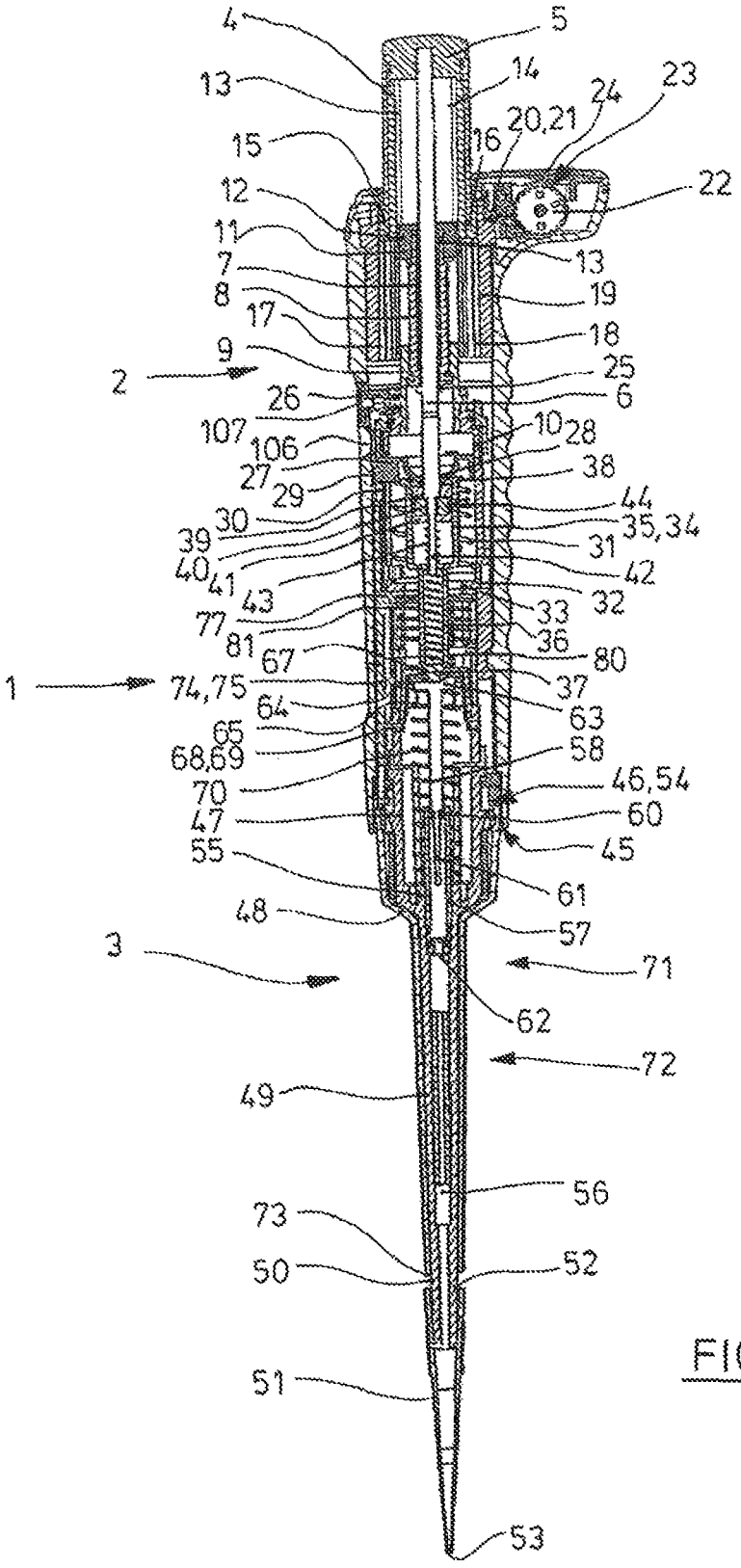

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FIG. 1

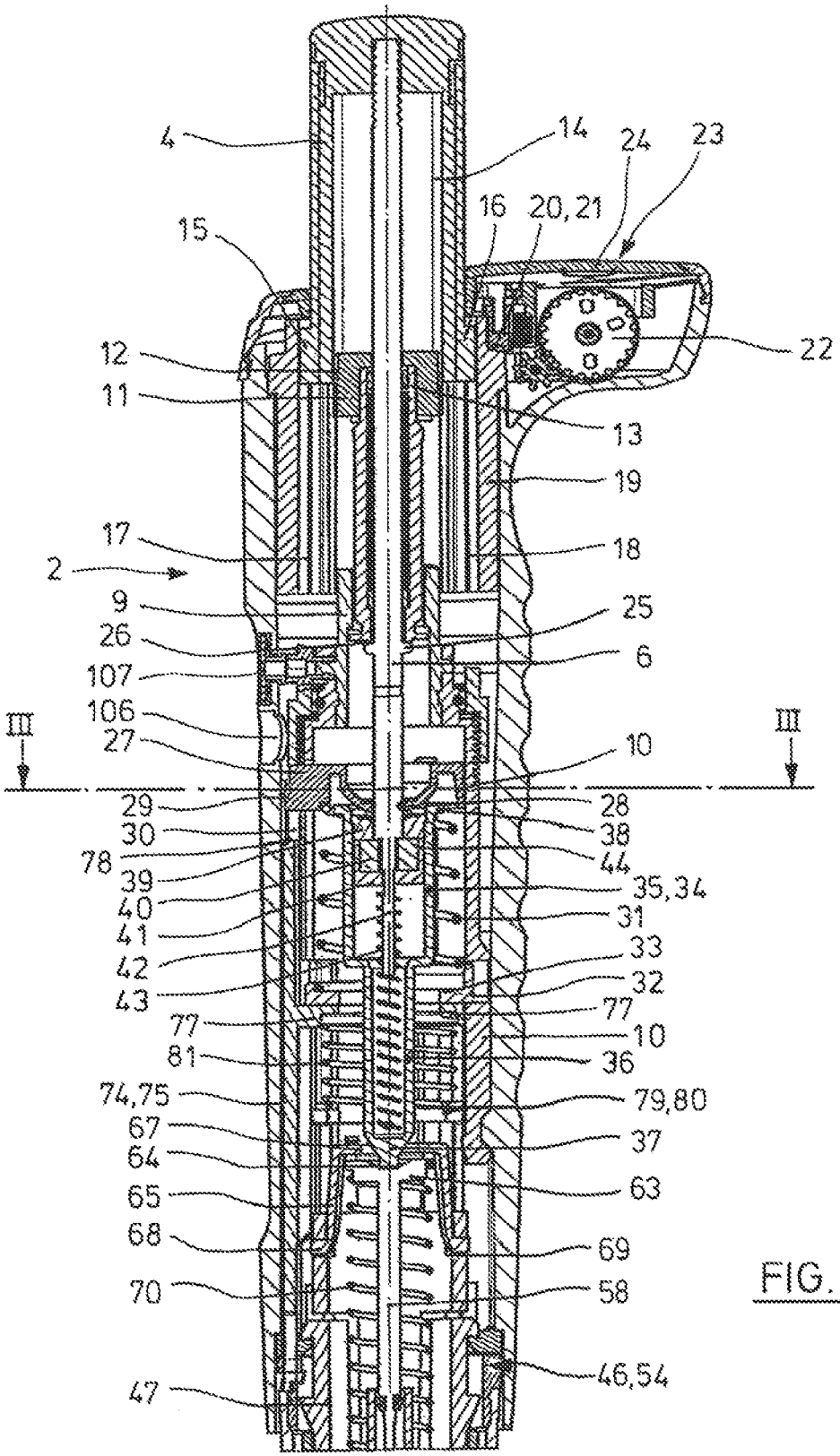
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FIG. 2

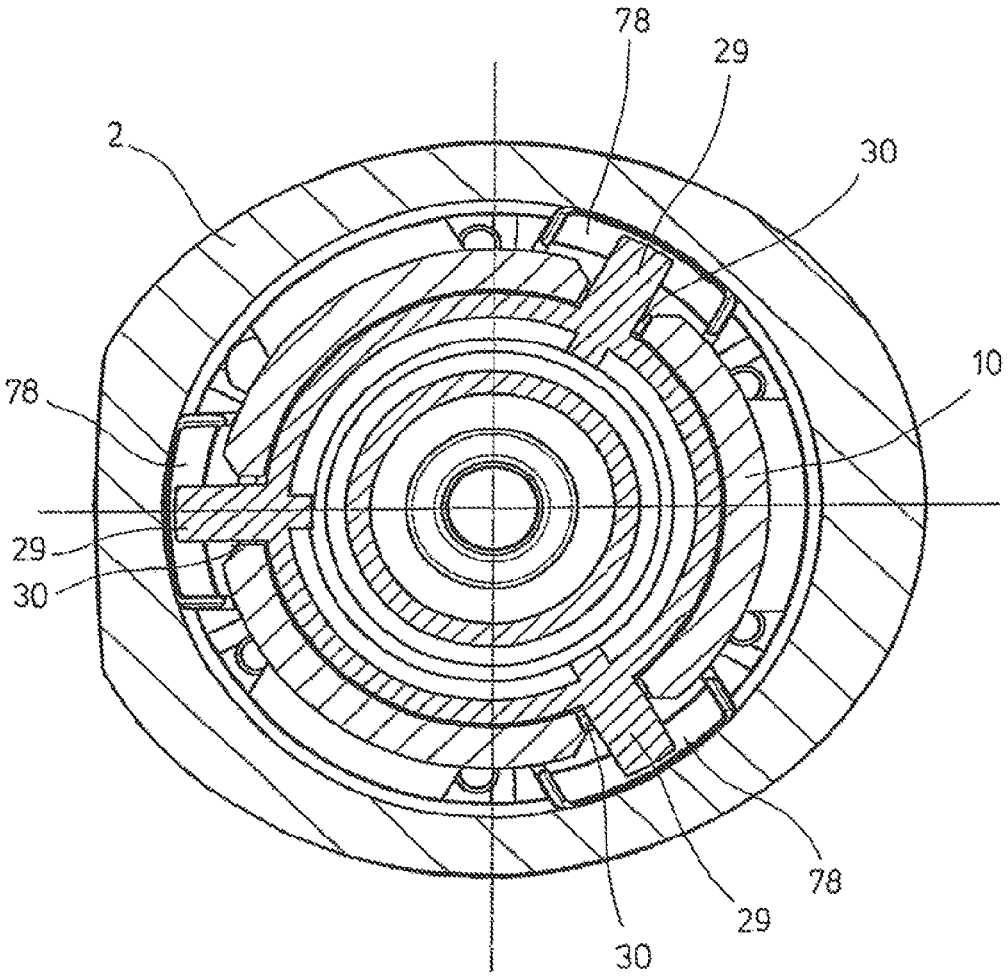

FIG. 3

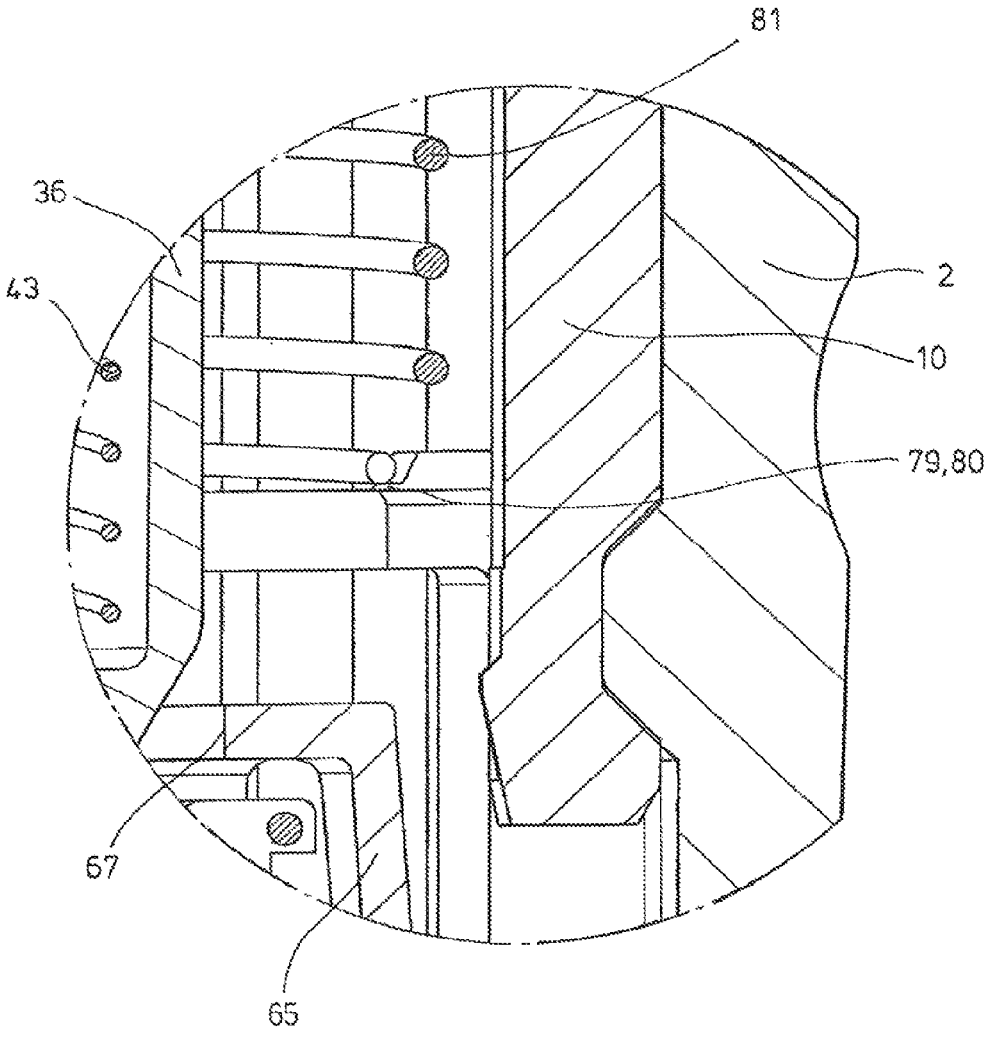

FIG. 4

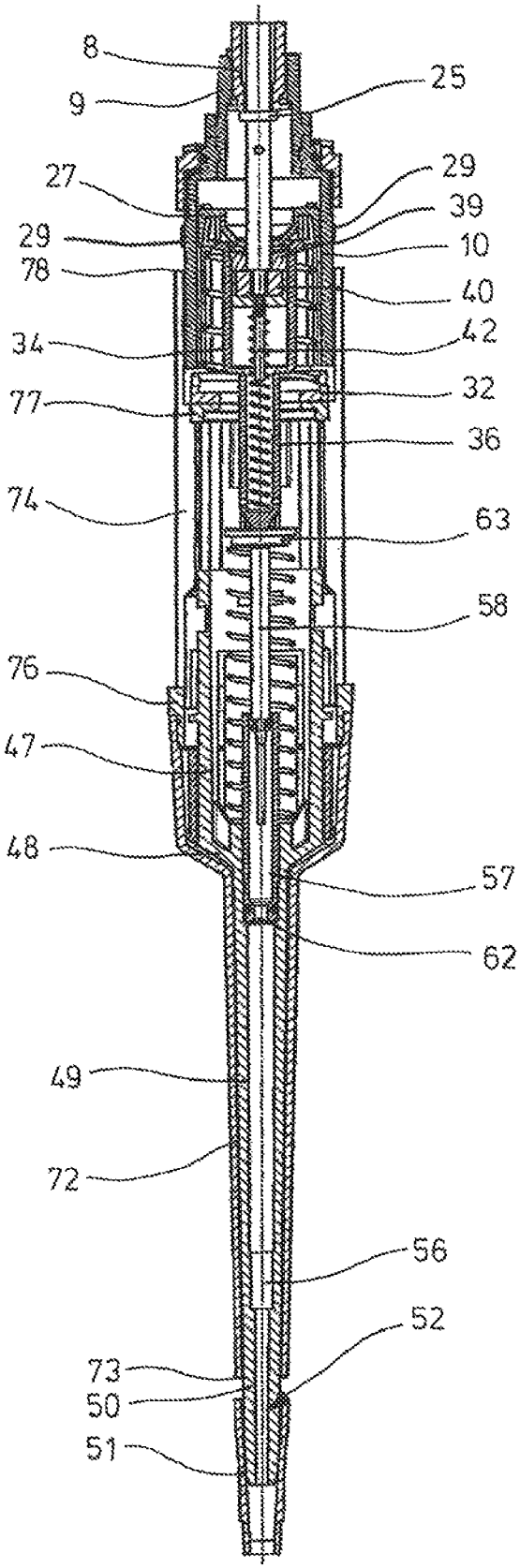
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FIG. 5

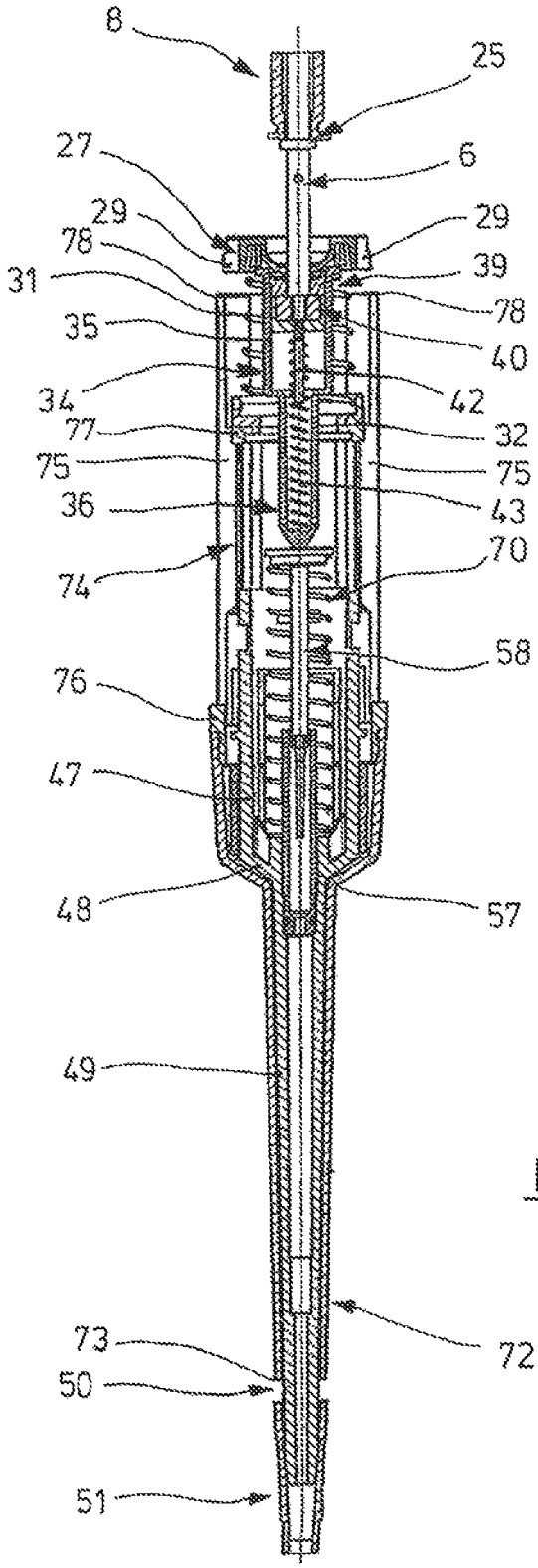
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FIG.6

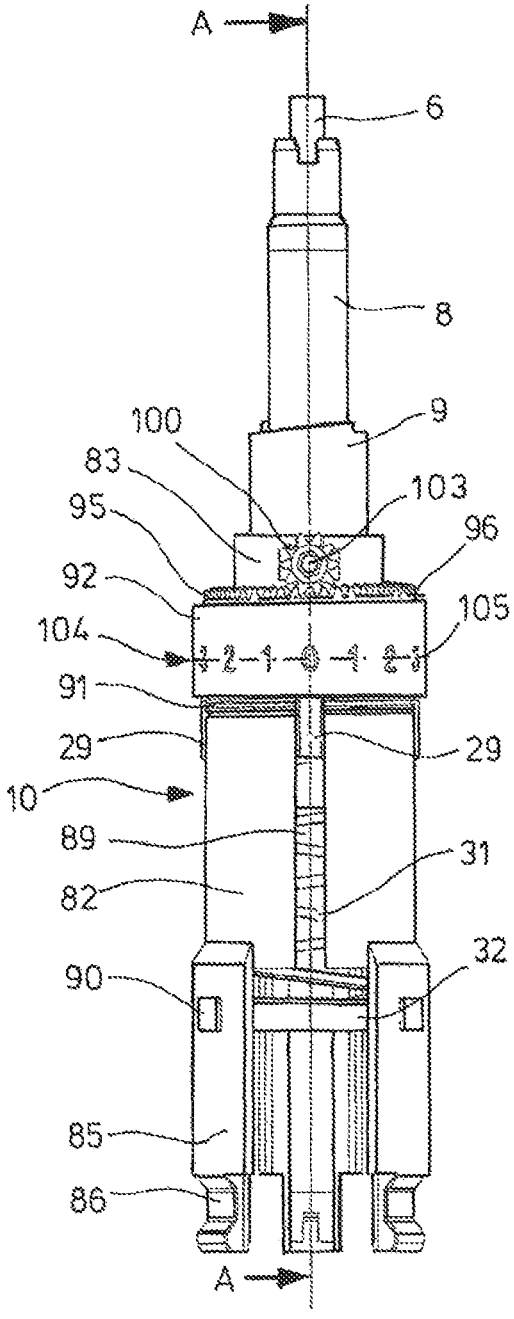
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FIG.7

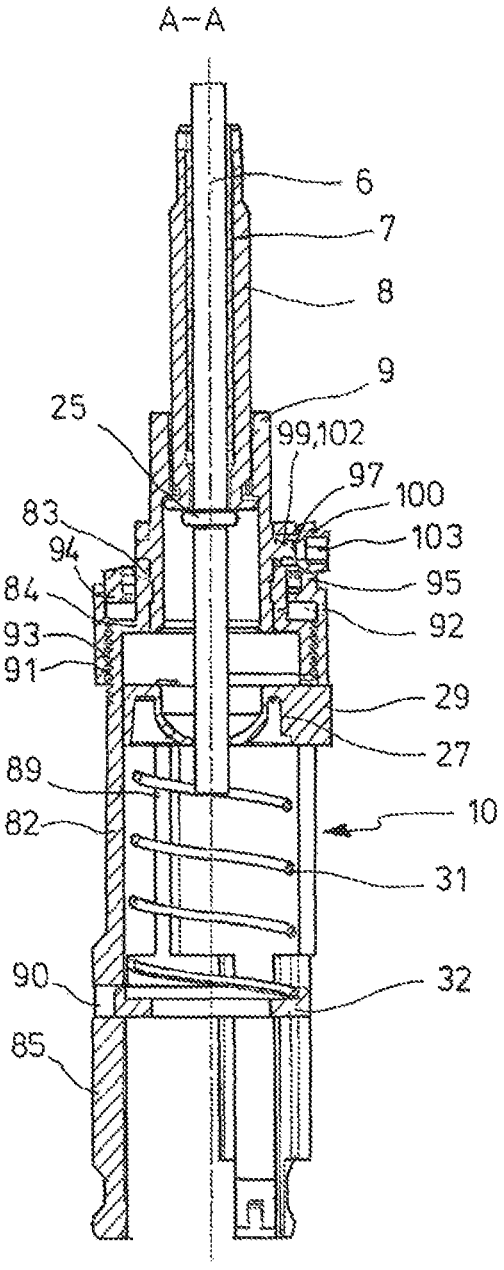
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FIG.8

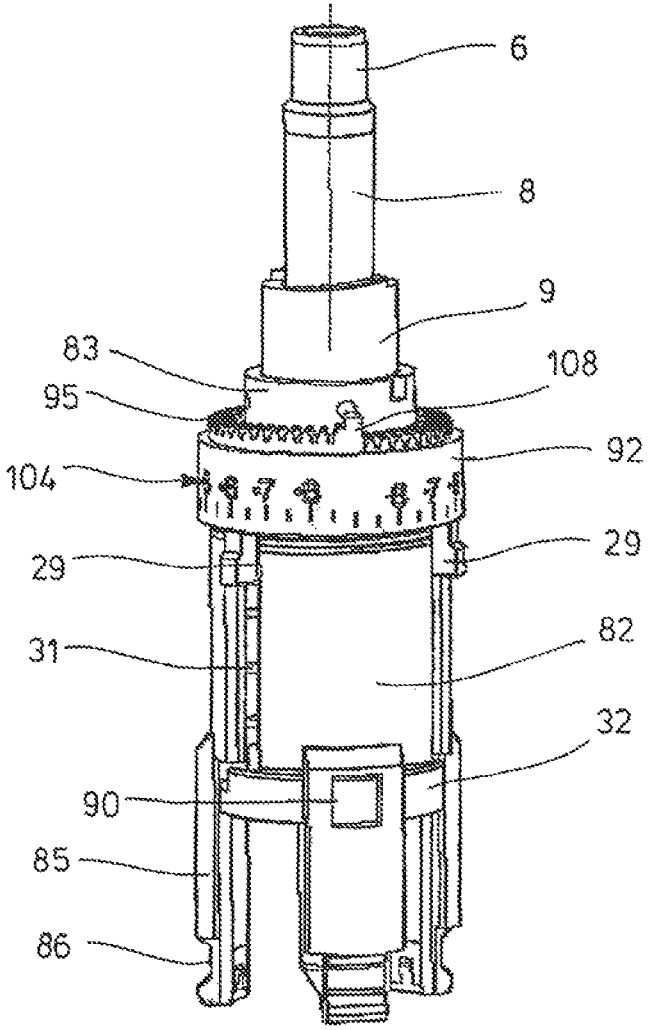
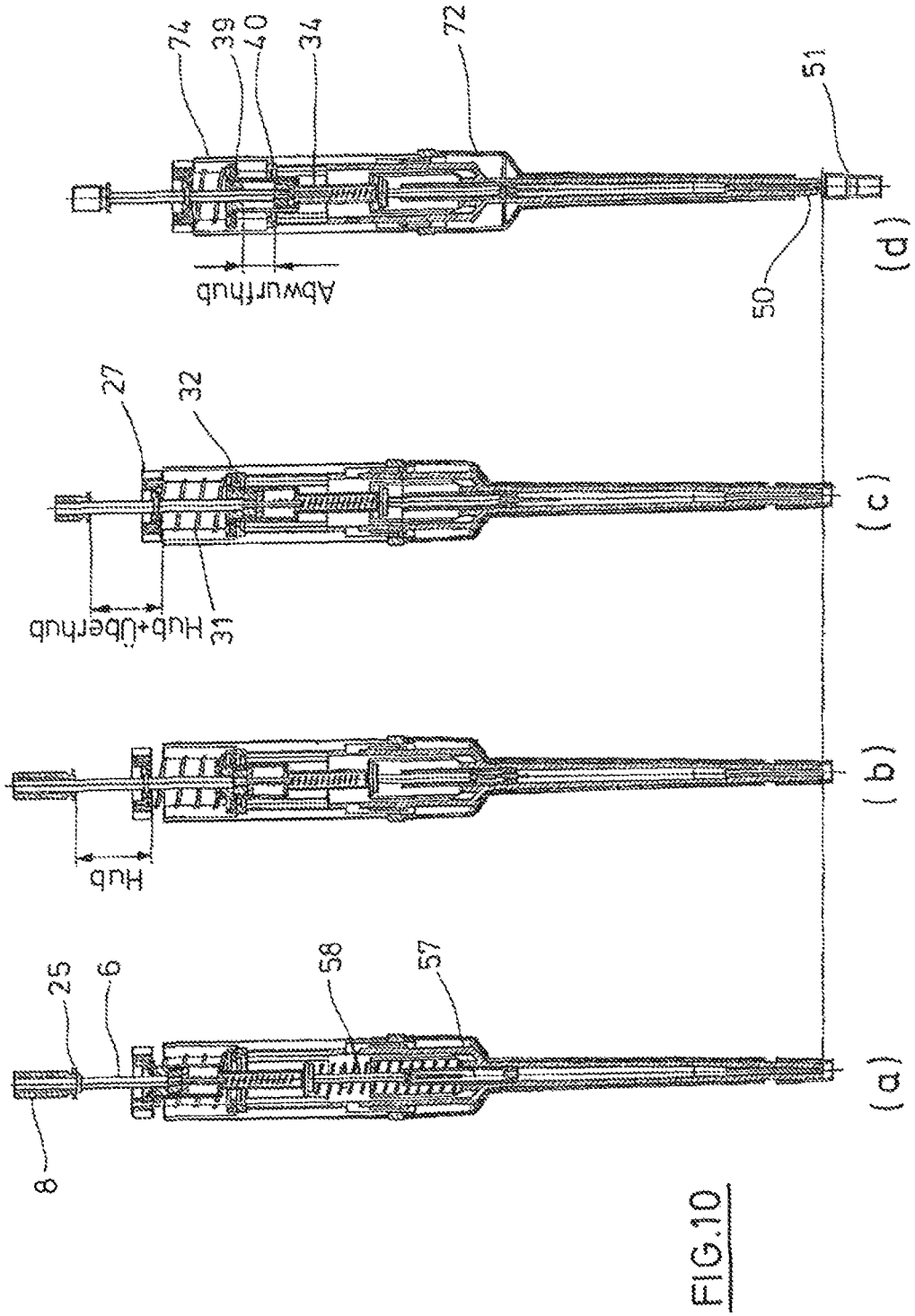


FIG. 9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Abwurfhub
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(d)
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32
Hub+Überhub
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(c)
Hub
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(a)

FIG.10

PIPETTE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to provisional patent application No. 61/604834, filed Feb. 29, 2012.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

Not applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a pipette for replaceable pipette tips.

Pipettes are used in the laboratory in particular for metering liquids. For this purpose, a pipette tip is clamped fast on a seat of the pipette with an upper opening. The seat is mostly a conical or cylindrical projection with respect to a casing of the pipette, onto which a pipette tip can be clamped with the upper opening thereof. The pipette tip can pick up and give out liquid through a lower opening. Air cushion pipettes comprise a displacement equipment for air, which is communicatingly connected to the pipette tip through a hole in the seat. An air cushion is relocated by means of the displacement equipment, so that liquid is sucked into the pipette tip and ejected out from there. For this purpose, the displacement equipment has a displacement chamber with a relocatable limit. The displacement equipment is mostly a cylinder with a piston that can be relocated therein.

After use, the pipette tips are released from the seat and replaced by a fresh pipette tip. Contaminations in subsequent meterings can be avoided through this. Pipette tips have usually an ejection device for ejecting the pipette tips, which permit ejection by actuation of a button without having to touch the pipette tips. Single use pipette tips made of plastics are available at low cost.

The relocatable limit is coupled to a drive equipment, which serves for shifting the piston in the cylinder. The drive equipment has a lifting rod, which can be shifted between an upper and a lower stop with a stop element. In the beginning of the aspiration of air into the displacement chamber, the stop element is situated at the lower stop. In the beginning of the displacement of air out of the cylinder, the stop element rests on the upper stop. The amount of liquid that is picked up or delivered, respectively, depends on the stroke of the relocatable limit, and thus on the stroke of the lifting rod. The stroke volume of the relocatable limit does not correspond exactly to the amount of liquid that is picked up or delivered. As the air column expands somewhat under the weight of the liquid, the stroke volume exceeds the volume of the liquid. The deviation between the stroke volume and the liquid's volume depends in particular on the density and viscosity of the liquid, the temperature, the air pressure and on wetting effects. For instance from the document WO 03/0331515 or U.S. Pat. No. 3,827,305, the entire contents of which is incorporated herein by reference, it is known to calibrate pipettes to a certain metering volume by adjusting the position of an upper stop body.

In fixed volume pipettes, the distance between upper and lower stop is constant. A fixed volume pipette with an upper stop body in the form of a threaded sleeve that is adjustable by a calibration tool is known from the document U.S. Pat. No. 4,020,698, the entire contents of which is incorporated herein by reference,.

In pipettes with adjustable metering volume, the position of the upper stop is variable. Known pipettes have an upper stop body in the form of a threaded spindle, which is adjustable in a spindle nut which is fixedly disposed in the casing. In order to adjust the threaded spindle, there are adjustment equipments, which are coupled to indicating equipments in the form of a counter for indicating the set metering volume. The document DE 43 35 863 C1, the entire contents of which is incorporated herein by reference, describes a pipette wherein the indicating equipments can be uncoupled from the adjustment equipment(s) for calibration.

In the known pipettes, a factory calibration is performed by the pipette manufacturer under standard conditions. In this, double distilled water is pipetted at a temperature of 20 to 25° C. and an air pressure of 1013 mbar. In order to pipette under other conditions, the user must change the factory calibration. Changing the factory calibration and later retrieval of the factory calibration is sumptuous.

The document EP 1 743 701 B1, the entire contents of which is incorporated herein by reference, describes a pipette wherein the lower stop body is held in a holder. An overstroke spring is disposed between the lower stop body and the holder. In addition, there is an adjustment equipment for adjusting the position of the holder with respect to the cylinder. An indicating equipment shows the respective position of the holder. This pipette permits simple calibration by the user, for instance when a liquid is to be metered which has another density or viscosity than double distilled water, or when it is to be worked at different air pressure or temperature. The calibration by the user is made by just only adjusting the lower stop body. The adjustment of the upper stop body and of the indicating equipment made in the factory calibration is not changed at all. The indicating equipment indicates the respective position of the lower stop body. The position of the lower stop body occupied in the factory calibration can easily be found again at any time.

In a practical embodiment, the holder is screwed coaxially to the lifting rod into a carrier which is fixedly disposed in the casing. An indicator ring, disposed coaxially to the lifting rod and having a bevel wheel toothing at the upper edge is rotatably mounted in the carrier. Driving pins project upward from the indicator ring and parallel to the lifting rod, which engage in the axial direction into holes in the bottom of the pot-shaped holder. A pinion is rotatably mounted on the carrier, is engaged with the bevel wheel toothing and has a hexagon socket in a front side. A tool can be inserted in the tool application device through a hole in the casing, in order to rotate the pinion. In this action, the indicator ring is rotated which rotates the holder along via the driving pins. As the holder is screwed into a thread of the carrier, the axial position of the holder in the carrier is changed, and thus also the axial position of the lower stop body. The change of the axial position of the holder with respect to the indicator ring is compensated by the variable introduction depths of the driving pins into the driving holes.

In the known device for user calibration, the precision of the calibration is impaired due to manufacture tolerances and wear of the many component parts. Moreover, the manufacturing expense is high due to the many component parts.

Starting from this, the present invention is based on the task to provide a less sumptuous pipette which offers a user calibration to the user with better calibration precision and being independent of the factory calibration.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The task is achieved by a pipette with the features of claim 1. Advantageous embodiments of the pipette are indicated in subclaims.

The pipette of the present invention has

a rod-shaped casing,

a seat for detachably holding a pipette tip on the lower end of the casing,

a displacement equipment, comprising a displacement chamber with a relocatable limit,

a connection channel, connecting the displacement chamber with an opening in the seat,

a drive equipment for relocating the relocatable limit of the displacement chamber, coupled to the relocatable limit and having an axially relocatable lifting rod,

an upper stop body, a lower stop body and a stop element on the circumference of the lifting rod for limiting the stroke of the lifting rod,

an overstroke spring, via which the lower stop body is supported against relocation towards the downside on an overstroke spring support,

a stationary screw element, fixedly connected to the casing, and a screw element that is relocatable in the casing and is engaged to the screw element and is coupled to the lower stop body in order to relocate it in the axial direction of the lifting rod when the relocatable screw element is being relocated,

a toothing, running along a helical line with the same pitch as that of the thread of the relocatable screw element and having teeth on the upper edge of the relocatable screw element that are directed in the direction of the instantaneous axis of the relocatable screw element,

a toothed driving wheel, rotatably mounted on a bearing that is fixedly connected to the casing, and being engaged with the toothing of the relocatable screw element, and

means for rotating the toothed driving wheel.

In the pipette of the present invention, the lifting rod having the stop element can be relocated between the upper stop body and the lower stop body. The stroke of the lifting rod and the relocatable limit is limited and the metering volume is determined through this. Moreover, the lower stop body is supported via an overstroke spring, so that an overstroke for blowing out residual liquid from a pipette point is possible by overcoming the spring force of the overstroke spring. The lower stop body is adjustable for calibration by the user. For this purpose, the relocatable screw element is relocatable on the stationary screw element, and it adjusts the lower stop body in the axial direction when it is being relocated. The stroke of the lifting rod and of the relocatable limit is changed through this.

In order to drive the relocatable screw element, the latter has a toothing on the upper edge with teeth which are directed parallel to the instantaneous axis of the relocatable screw element. The toothing runs along a helical line which has the same pitch as that of the thread of the relocatable screw element which engages into the thread of the stationary screw element. The toothed driving wheel, rotatably mounted on a bearing that is fixedly connected to the casing, is engaged with the toothing. When the toothed driving wheel is being rotated by means of the means for rotating, the relocatable screw element is screwed in the stationary screw element and axially relocated through this. In that the toothing of the relocatable screw element runs along a helical line having the same pitch as the thread of the relocatable screw element, the toothing remains in engagement with the toothed driving wheel. Due to this construction, component parts are saved compared to the conventional means for calibration by the user. Error sources are reduced through this, and the precision of the calibration is improved. Moreover, the expense for manufacture and the production cost are reduced.

According to one embodiment, the relocatable screw element is a threaded ring, disposed concentrically to the lifting rod and having a thread on the circumference, which has the toothing at the topside and rests on the lower stop body at the downside. The threaded ring can be housed in the casing in a space-saving manner, and it can uniformly rest on the lower stop body with its lower edge.

According to a further embodiment, the stationary screw element is a hollow cylindrical lifting body which has an external thread at the outer circumference to which an internal thread on the inner circumference of the threaded ring is engaged, the lifting body has several axially extending slots, the lower stop body is arranged in the lifting body and the lower stop body has several outwardly projecting projections which grip through the slots and have portions that jut out of the lifting body and on which the threaded ring is seated. A space-saving arrangement of the stationary screw element and the lower stop body is made possible through this.

According to a further embodiment, the overstroke spring support is disposed in the lifting body, and the overstroke spring is disposed in the lifting body between the lower stop body and the overstroke spring support. Overstroke spring support and overstroke spring are accommodated in a space-saving manner through this. In addition, the lifting body serves as a receiver and as a carrier for the overstroke spring support and the overstroke spring in a space-saving manner.

In one configuration of the pipette as a fixed volume pipette, the upper stop body is fixedly arranged in the casing. In a pipette with adjustable metering volume, the upper stop body is disposed in the casing so as to be displaceable in the axial direction of the lifting rod. According to a preferred embodiment, the upper stop body is a threaded spindle which is screwed into a spindle nut that is fixedly connected to the casing, and which has an upper passage channel through which the lifting rod is guided through, and/or the lower stop body is circular disc shaped and has a lower passage channel through which the lifting rod extends.

According to a further embodiment, the lifting body is fixedly connected to the spindle nut at the topside. This permits a space-saving housing of the means for adjusting the metering volume. The lifting body serves as a seat and as a carrier for nut, spindle and lifting rod, which is inserted into the upper passage hole and can be relocated between the upper and the lower stop body with the stop element.

According to a further embodiment, the bearing of the toothed driving wheel is fixedly connected to the lifting body above the external thread. In this embodiment, the lifting body serves also as the carrier of the toothed driving wheel.

In the assembly of the pipette, the lifting body can be separately equipped with the different component parts. The equipped lifting body is a subassembly which can be mounted in the casing as a whole.

According to a further embodiment, the lifting body is connected to the casing via a snap connection. The lifting body can be fixedly connected to the casing in a simple manner through this. As the case may be, the snap connection can be released selectively for dismounting the lifting body.

According to a further embodiment, the stationary screw element and the relocatable screw element are bevel wheels or contrate wheels.

According to a further embodiment, there is an indicating equipment for indicating the position of the lower stop body.

According to a further embodiment, the threaded ring has marks at the outer circumference, spaced apart from each other in the circumferential direction, and the casing has a window for reading a mark that is disposed under the window. The marks serve for indicating the respective adjustment of

the displaceable screw element to the user, and thus also that of the lower stop body. In a preferred embodiment, there is a special mark which indicates for the user that the lower stop body has occupied the position in which the factory calibration has been made. On both sides of this central mark, there may be further marks, which indicate the deviation of the position of the lower stop body from the factory calibration in both directions.

According to a further embodiment, the marks on the circumference of the toothed drive wheel are disposed on a helical line, whose pitch corresponds to the pitch of the thread of the relocatable screw element. Through this, it is achieved that the different marks can always be seen at the same position in the window when the relocatable screw element is rotated, in spite of the axial position change of the relocatable screw element accompanied with this.

According to a further embodiment, the toothed drive wheel has a tool application device for rotating the toothed drive wheel, and the casing has a hole through which the tool application device is accessible my means of a tool that is introduced into the hole from the outside. Thus, the user can perform the user calibration purposefully by applying the tool on the tool application device and rotating the tool in different directions. The tool application device is for instance a slit, cross recess, torx, hexagon socket or another polygon socket.

In a further embodiment, there are means for limiting the rotation of the relocatable screw element, which prevent the highest tooth of the toothing from disengaging from the toothed drive wheel. The highest tooth of the axial toothing is that tooth which is disposed at the highest position of the helical line along which the toothing of the relocatable screw element runs. By the limit, the toothing is prevented to disengage from the toothed drive wheel.

By way of example, the limit is a radially projecting projection of the relocatable screw element which hits a projection that is fixedly disposed in the casing when the toothed drive wheel reaches the highest tooth of the toothing. According to a preferred embodiment, the toothing of the relocatable screw element is limited by an axial projection next to the highest tooth, which blocks the toothed drive wheel at the end of the axial toothing. In order to block the toothed drive wheel, the axial projection has no teeth and is made so massively that the toothed drive wheel cannot be rotated beyond it. When the toothed drive wheel engages into the deepest tooth of the toothing, further rotation of the relocatable screw element is prevented by the step which the toothing has towards the neighbouring highest tooth.

The pipette of the present invention is preferably a hand-held pipette. In this, it is dealt with a pipette which can be held and operated by the user with only one hand in the pipetting. The pipette is preferably a mechanically driven pipette. But in principle it is also possible to realise the pipette with an electric drive or with a mechanical drive having force assistance by an electric drive (servo drive).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be explained in more detail below by way of the attached drawings of an example of its realisation. In the drawings show:

FIG. **1** a pipette of the present invention in a longitudinal section;

FIG. **2** the same pipette in a magnified longitudinal section through an upper portion;

FIG. **3** an enlarged section along the line III-III of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **4** a magnified detail IV of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **5** the same pipette in a magnified longitudinal section through a lower portion;

FIG. **6** the same pipette without lifting body in a magnified longitudinal section through a lower portion;

FIG. **7** subassembly comprising lifting body, threaded spindle, lower stop body, overstroke spring and components for user calibration in a side view;

FIG. **8** the same subassembly in a vertical section;

FIG. **9** the same subassembly in a perspective view from the side opposite to that of FIG. **7**;

FIG. **10***a* to *d* the same pipette before the actuation of the actuating element (FIG. **10***a*), after the complete execution of the metering stroke and before the execution of the overstroke (FIG. **10***b*), after the execution of the overstroke before the ejection of the pipette tip (FIG. **10***c*) and after the ejection of a pipette tip (FIG. **10***d*), always in a partial longitudinal section.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

While this invention may be embodied in many different forms, there are described in detail herein a specific preferred embodiment of the invention. This description is an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the particular embodiment illustrated.

In the present application, the designations "up" and "down", "above" and "below" and "horizontal" and "vertical" refer to an orientation of the pipette in which the casing is oriented vertically downward with the seat. In this orientation, a pipette point fastened on the seat can be directed towards a vessel situated there under, in order to aspirate or to deliver a liquid.

According to FIGS. **1** and **2**, the pipette **1** has a rod-shaped casing, formed as a handle, with an upper part **2** of the casing and a lower part **3** of the casing. The upper part **2** of the casing forms a drive unit with all the components contained therein, and the lower part **3** of the casing a displacer unit with all the components contained therein. An actuating element **4** in the form of a cylindrical push-button projects upwardly from the upper part **2** of the casing at the topside thereof. The actuating element **4** is mounted in the upper part **2** of the casing so as to be axially movable and rotatable.

The actuating element **4** is screwed fast on a cylindrical lifting rod **6** by a thread in a cover **5**. In the upper part **2** of the casing, the lifting rod **6** is guided through an upper passage channel **7** of a threaded spindle **8**. The threaded spindle **8** is screwed into an internal thread of a spindle nut **9** which is held in a defined position in the upper part **2** of the casing.

The spindle nut **9** is fixedly connected to a lifting body **10**, which is fastened in the upper part **2** of the casing. The lifting body **10** is essentially cylindrical and is a carrier for the spindle nut **9**, the threaded spindle **8** screwed in therein and the lifting rod **6** guided therein. When the pipette is being assembled, these and other component parts are pre-assembled on the lifting body **10**, and the lifting body **10** equipped with the component parts is mounted in the upper part **2** of the casing, so that it is fixedly held in the upper part **2** of the casing. For this purpose, the lifting body **10** is latched with the upper part **2** of the casing. But in principle it is also possible to mount the component parts that are pre-assembled on the lifting body **10** directly in the upper part **2** of the casing. For this purpose, the upper part **2** of the casing can be configured at the inside corresponding to the lifting body **10**.

At the topside, the threaded spindle **8** has a spindle driving tenon **11**, connected to it so as to be blocked against rotation. On the circumference, the spindle driving tenon **11** has a

hexagon **12** with central hole **13**. The hexagon **12** engages into a hexagon socket **14** of the actuating element **4**.

At the bottom, the actuating element **4** is provided with two diametrically opposite radial projections **15**, **16**, which project outwardly. There are preferably four radial projections **15**, **16**. The radial projections **15**, **16** engage into axially running grooves **17**, **18** at the inner side of a hollow cylindrical transmission part **19**, which is rotatably mounted in the upper part **2** of the casing. At the top, the transmission part **19** has a toothed ring **20** on the circumference, which is engaged with a toothed wheel of a counter gear system **21**, which drives several counter wheels **22**, disposed side by side on a horizontal axis, of a counter mechanism **23**. The counter mechanism **23** is fastened on the upper part of the casing. Each of the counter wheels **22** has numerals from 0 to 9. The rearmost counter wheel **22** with respect to FIG. **1** is driven by the counter gear system **21**. The counter wheels **22** disposed aside are each turned further for one numeral when the counter wheel disposed behind it changes over from 9 to 0.

Above the counter mechanism **23**, the upper part **2** of the casing has a casing cover **24** with a window, through which the numerals of the counter wheels **22** can be read out.

Below the threaded spindle **8**, a bead-like collar **25** is disposed on the lifting rod **8** as a stop element. The relocation of the lifting rod **6** towards the upside is limited by abutment of the collar **25** on the lower front side **26** of the threaded spindle **8**, which forms an upper stop body for the collar **25**.

An essentially disc-shaped lower stop body **27** is disposed in the lifting body **10** below the spindle nut **9**. The lower stop body **27** has a cup-shaped deepening, in which a lower passage channel **28** is centrally disposed. Further, the lower stop body **27** has several (for instance three or four) projections **29**, radially projecting outwardly, which are uniformly distributed about its circumference.

The lower stop body **27** is guided on the projections **29** in axially running guide slots **30** of the lifting body **10**. This is also shown in FIG. **3**. It can be relocated upwardly up to the abutment position of the projections **29** at the upper end of the guide slots **30**.

An overstroke spring **31** realised as a helical spring is arranged in the lifting body **10** below the lower stop body **27**. At the topside, the overstroke spring sits close on the bottom side of the lower stop body **27**. At the downside, the overstroke spring **31** is supported on an overstroke spring support **32** which is disposed in the upper part **2** of the casing and fixedly connected to it.

The overstroke spring support **32** is formed by a ring with L-cross section, wherein the horizontal leg of the L-profile borders a central guide-through hole **33** of the overstroke spring support **32**. The overstroke spring **31** is supported by the horizontal leg of the L-profile and is laterally enclosed by the vertical leg. The overstroke spring **31** pushes the lower stop body **27** against the upper ends of the guide slots **30** under bias with the projections **29**.

Below the lower stop body **27**, a drive element **34** in the form of a sleeve, aligned coaxially to the lifting rod **6**, exists in the lifting body **10**. The drive element **34** has an upper sleeve portion **35** and a lower sleeve portion **36**, wherein the upper sleeve portion **35** has greater inner and outer diameters than the lower sleeve portion **36**. The lower sleeve portion **36** has a tip **37** in the form of a truncated cone at the downside.

On the upper edge of the upper sleeve portion **35**, there is a further circulating collar **38** which projects radially towards the outside. The outer diameter of the upper sleeve portion **35** is smaller than the inner diameter of the guide-through hole **33** of the overstroke spring support, **32**, so that the lower and the upper sleeve portion **35**, **36** can be introduced into the guide-through hole **33**. The outer diameter of the further collar **38** exceeds the inner diameter of the guide-through hole **33**, so that the drive element **34** cannot pass completely through the guide-through hole **33**. The overstroke spring support **32** forms an end stop, and the further collar **38** an end stop element, which limit the relocation of the drive element **34** towards the downside.

A hollow cylindrical anchor **39** made of a ferromagnetic material is disposed at the top of the upper sleeve portion **35**. A hollow cylindrical magnet **40** is disposed there under in the upper sleeve portion **35**. Below of it there is a pot **41**, which accommodates the magnet **40**. The anchor **39** has a press fit in the upper sleeve portion **35**. The lifting rod **6** extends movably through the central hole of the anchor **39**. Underneath of the anchor, the lifting rod **6** has a needle-shaped portion **42** with reduced diameter. The magnet **40** and the pot **41** sit on the needle shaped portion **42**. Magnet **40** and pot **41** are preferably fixed on the needle-shaped portion **42**, for instance by having a press fit there. Moreover, the magnet **40** is supported at its topside on a shoulder of the lifting rod, from which the needle shaped portion **42** emerges.

Below the ring disc **41**, an uncoupling spring **43** realised as a helical spring is guided on the needle-shaped portion **42** and is supported on the bottom **43** of the lower sleeve portion **36**. Anchor **39**, magnet **40** and uncoupling spring **43** are component parts of an uncoupling device **44**.

According to FIGS. **1**, **2**, **5** and **6**, at the inner circumference next to a lower casing opening **45**, the upper part **2** of the casing is provided with means **46** for detachable connection to further means for detachable connection to the lower part **3** of the casing, the means **46** not being explained in more detail.

The lower part **3** of the casing has a hollow cylindrical portion **47** at its topside, which is followed by a short upper hollow cone portion **48** with great cone angle at the downside, which is in turn followed by a long lower hollow cone portion **49** with small cone angle, which forms a conical neck **50** for clamping up a pipette point **51** with its lower end. A clamped-up pipette point **51** is also essentially conical with an upper opening **52** for plugging up onto the neck **50** and with a lower opening **53** for the passage of liquid. The upper opening **52** is significantly greater than the lower opening **53**, and the pipette point **51** tapers from the upper to the lower opening.

At the upper side on the outer circumference, the hollow cylindrical portion **47** of the lower part **3** of the casing is provided with further means for detachable connection **54** not explained in more detail, which are matched to the means **46** for detachable connection of the upper part **2** of the casing, in order to detachably connect the lower part **3** of the casing with the upper part **2** of the casing. Suitable means for detachable connection **64**, **54** of the lower part **3** of the casing and the upper part **2** of the casing are described in the document DE 10 2004 003 434 B4. In this respect, it is made reference to DE 10 2004 003 434 B4 and US2005/155438 A1, whose entire content is incorporated into the present application by reference.

At the top, the lower hollow cone portion **49** has a prolongation **55** in the lower part of the casing **3** which projects beyond the upper hollow cone portion **48**.

The lower hollow cone portion **49** has a connection channel **56**, which connects the upper front surface of the prolongation **55** with the lower front surface of the neck **50**.

An arrangement of a cylinder **57** with a piston **58** relocatable therein is disposed in the lower part **3** of the casing. The cylinder **57** is set into the connection channel **56** with a lower area thereof, and fixed therein by pressing or gluing. At the bottom, the cylinder **57** is sealed with respect to the connection channel **56** by means of an O-ring **59**.

The piston **58** has a piston seal **60** on its circumference, which seals on the cylinder **57** at the inside. Below the piston seal **60**, the piston **58** has a needle-shaped extension **61** which can be introduced into a passage opening **62** in the bottom of the cylinder **57** and into the connection channel **56** in order to reduce the stagnant volume. Cylinder **57** and piston **58** are aligned vertically. At the top, the piston **58** has a horizontally directed piston disc **63**, which has a vertically directed conical indentation **64** for receiving the tip **37** of the drive element **34** at its centre.

At its topside, the lower part **3** of the casing has a pot-shaped closing cap **65** with a cylindrical or conical shell. The bottom of the closing cap **65** is disposed above the piston disc **63** and has a central upper casing opening **67**, through which the piston disc **63** is accessible from the topside. On the edge of its shell, the closing cap **65** has outwardly projecting projections **68** which are snapped into corresponding indentations **69** of the hollow cylindrical portion **47** of the lower part **3** of the casing.

The bottom of the closing cap **65** limits the relocation of the piston **58** towards the upside. A piston spring **70**, configured as a helical spring and being supported on the prolongation **55** at the bottom and on the bottom side of the piston disc **63** at the top, pre-loads the piston **58** against the bottom side of the closing cap **65**.

The pipette **1** has further an ejection device **71**. The ejection device **71** comprises an ejection slide **72**, which is disposed on the lower part **3** of the casing. The ejection slide **72** has a contour that is adapted to the contours of the hollow cylindrical portion **47**, the upper hollow cone portion **48** and the lower hollow cone portion **49**. At the bottom, it has an annular ejection end **73**. In the position of the ejection slide **72** of FIG. **1**, the ejection end **73** is pushed up towards the upside onto the lower part **3** of the casing as far as possible, so that the conical neck **50** is free for plugging up a pipette point **51**.

At the topside, the ejection slide **72** is connected to an ejection lengthening **74**. The latter comprises three vertical ejection rods **75**, which are connected to the upper edge of the ejection slide **72**. The ejection rods **75** are uniformly distributed over the upper edge of the ejection slide **72**. At the bottom, the ejections rods **75** are connected via a first snap connection to an ejection ring **76**, which is connected to the upper edge of the ejection slide **72** via a second snap connection. In a distance from the ejection ring **76**, the ejection rods **75** are connected to each other by an annular upper ejection spring support **77** on their inner circumference at the top. The upper ejection spring support **77** has an L-shaped cross section, wherein the horizontal leg of the cross section is adjacent to the guide-through hole **33** below the overstroke spring support. The vertical, circulating leg of the upper ejection spring support **77** is directed downward.

The ejection rods **75** have actuating ends **78** at the top.

The ejection lengthening **74** or the ejection rods **75**, respectively, extend into the upper part **2** of the casing through the lower casing opening **45**. The relocation of the ejection lengthening **74** towards the upside is limited by the close sitting of the upper ejection spring support **77** on the bottom of the overstroke spring support **32**.

Below the upper ejection spring support **77**, three bridges **79** project from the inner side of the upper part **2** of the casing, which are uniformly distributed over the inner circumference and grasp through recesses of the lifting bodies **10**. This is shown in FIG. **4** in particular. The bridges **79** form a lower ejection spring support **80**. An ejection spring **81**, formed as a helical spring, is disposed under bias between the upper ejection spring support **77** and the lower ejection spring support **80** and presses the ejection device **71** upward, so that the upper ejection spring support **77** sits close on the overstroke spring support **32**.

The lower part **3** of the casing is guided into the lower casing opening **45** of the upper part **2** of the casing with an upper region of the hollow cylindrical portion **47**. The means **46**, **54** for detachable connection of the lower part **3** of the casing and the upper part **2** of the casing are detachably connected to each other. The drive element **34** engages with the tip **37** into the upper casing opening **67** and sits close to the piston disc **63** in the indentation **63**. The piston disc **63** pushes the drive element **34** upward, and via the uncoupling device **44**, the lifting rod **6** is pressed against the threaded spindle **8** with the collar.

According to FIGS. **7** and **8**, the lifting body **10** has a lower hollow cylindrical portion **82** and an upper hollow cylindrical portion **83**, wherein the upper hollow cylindrical portion **83** has a smaller inner and outer diameter and is shorter than the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82**. The upper edge of the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82** is connected to the lower edge of the upper hollow cylindrical portion **83** by an annular disc shaped shoulder **84**.

Three spring struts **85** of the lifting body **10** project downward from the lower edge of the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82**, parallel to the centre axis of the lower and upper hollow cylindrical portions **82**, **83**. In the region of the spring struts **85**, the lifting body **10** has generally a greater wall thickness than in the region of the lower and upper hollow cylindrical portions **82**, **83**. Near to their lower ends, the spring struts **85** are provided with indentations **86** at the outside for catch-locking with corresponding elevations of the upper part **2** of the casing.

The spindle nut **9** is essentially hollow cylindrical and inserted into the upper hollow cylindrical portion **83** with a lower portion. The spindle nut **9** and the upper hollow cylindrical portion **83** are made by means of two-component injection moulding, and are also directly connected to each other through this.

As already mentioned, the threaded spindle **8** is screwed into the spindle nut **9**, and the lifting rod **6** is inserted into the upper passage channel **7** of the spindle nut **8**.

The lifting body **10** has several axially extending slots **89** in the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82**. The slots **89** begin at a distance from the upper edge of the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82**, and extend up to the lower edge of the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82**. In the example, there are four slots **89**, which are uniformly distributed over the circumference of the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82**.

The lower stop body **27** is inserted into the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82**. Four radial projections **29** of the lower stop body **27** grip through the slots **89** and project somewhat outward from the outer circumference of the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82**.

The overstroke spring support **32** has the shape of a disc with an upward projecting edge. With its outer edge, the overstroke spring support **32** is caught in recesses **90** at the inner side of the spring struts **85**. For reasons of easy manufacture, the recesses **90** extend from the inner side up to the outer side of the spring struts **85**.

The overstroke spring **31** is arranged in the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82** between the lower stop body **27** and the overstroke spring support **32**. It is under bias, so that it pushes the lower stop body **27** upward.

On its outer circumference, the lower hollow cylindrical portion **82** has an external thread **91** which begins at the upper edge. The slots **89** extend into a lower portion of the external thread **91**.

An annular cylindrical threaded ring **92** having an internal thread **93** is screwed on the external thread **91**. At its upper edge, the threaded ring **92** has an inward projecting, further annular disc shaped shoulder **94**, which is disposed above the shoulder **84**. On the upper edge or on the further shoulder **94**, respectively, there is a toothing **95** with teeth directed parallel to the instantaneous axis of the internal thread **93**. The toothing **95** runs along a helical line **96** around the instantaneous axis of the internal thread **93**, which has the same pitch as the external thread **91** and the internal thread **92**. The toothing **95** is a bevel wheel toothing.

The stop body **27** is pressed against the lower edge of the threaded ring **92** with its projections **29** by the overstroke spring **31**.

At the outer circumference, the spindle nut **9** has a bearing **97** in the form of a radially outwardly projecting spigot, which projects into a breakthrough **98** of the upper hollow cylindrical portion **83**. At its outer circumference, the spigot has a circulating catch groove **99**. A toothed drive wheel **100** is put onto the bearing **97** with a hollow shaft **101** which has a circulating catch bead **102** at the inner circumference, so that the catch bead **102** engages into the catch groove **99**. The toothed drive wheel **100** can be rotated on the bearing **97**. The toothed drive wheel **100** is engaged with the toothing **95** of the threaded ring **92** as a pinion. The toothed drive wheel **100** is configured as a bevel wheel.

On an outer front side, the toothed drive wheel **100** has a tool application device **103** in the form of a hexagon socket.

On the outer circumference of the threaded ring **92**, marks **104** are arranged in the form of arabic numerals. Starting from a centrally arranged numeral 0, numerals 1 2 3 . . . are arranged in ascending order in the different circumferential directions. The marks **104** are uniformly distributed over the perimeter.

The marks **104** are arranged on a further helical line **105**, which has the same pitch as the external thread **91** and the internal thread **93** (compare FIG. **9**).

According to FIGS. **1** and **2**, the threaded ring **92** is arranged in the lower part of the casing **2** below a window **106**, so that always one mark **104** is visible from the outside. Moreover, the toothed drive wheel **100** is arranged below a hole **107** in the upper part **2** of the casing, so that a tool in the form of a hexagon key can be put into the tool application device **103** from the outside.

The pipette **1** can be used as follows:

It is grasped on the upper part **2** of the casing. A metering stroke is set by rotating the actuating element **4** until the counter wheels **22** indicate the desired metering volume. When the actuating element **4** is being rotated, the threaded spindle **8** is rotated via the spindle driving tenon **11**, and is axially relocated due to its thread connection to the spindle nut **9** which is stationary in the upper part **2** of the casing. In this, the spindle driving tenon **11** slips into the hexagon socket of the actuating element **4**. At the same time, the transmission part **19** is rotated via the further radial projections **15**, **16**, and the counter mechanism is adjusted. As a consequence, the set axial position of the threaded spindle **8** in the upper part **2** of the casing, and thus also the metering volume can be read on the counter mechanism **23**.

Further, a pipette point **51** is clamped onto the neck **50**, preferably by pushing the latter into a pipette point **51** which is held ready in a holder.

Before sucking up liquid, air is ejected out of the cylinder **57** by pushing the piston **58** downward by means of the actuating element **4**, until the further collar **38** hits the lower stop body **27**. In this, the lifting rod **6** moves the drive element **34** downward via the uncoupling device **44**, and the piston **58** is pressed deeper into the cylinder **57**. Due to the force between magnet **40** and anchor **39**, the uncoupling device **44** does not uncouple in this.

Thereafter, the lower end of the pipette tip **51** is dipped into the liquid by means of the pipette **1**, and the desired amount is sucked into the pipette tip **51** by releasing the actuating element **4**. In this, the piston spring **70** pushes the piston **58**, and with it the drive element **34** as well as the lifting rod **6**, back into the initial position in which the collar **25** sits close on the threaded spindle **8**.

The pipette **1** is shown in FIGS. **1**, **2**, **5**, **6** and **10***a* in this situation.

Thereafter, the pipette tip **51** can be directed to another vessel with its lower end by means of the pipette **1**. By pushing downward the actuating element **4**, the lifting rod **6** is moved downward and the drive element **34** is relocated downward via the uncoupling device **44**, so that the piston **58** is moved downward in the cylinder **57** anew. In this, the set metering amount is essentially delivered. This situation is shown in FIG. **10***b*.

Residuals that have remained in the pipette tip **51** can be blown out by pushing the actuating element **4** further downward under increased force. In this, the lower stop body **27** is relocated downward in the guide slots **30** against the action of the overstroke spring **31**, and via the uncoupling device **44**, the drive element **34** is relocated further downward and pushes the piston **58** still deeper into the cylinder **57**. In the overstroke, a further positive pressure is generated, which pushes out residual liquid which is adhered on the inner wall pipette tip **51**.

The overstroke is ended when the drive element **34** hits with the further collar **38** the overstroke spring support **32** which forms the end stop. At the same time, the projections **29** reach the actuating end **78** of the ejection lengthening **74** or are situated above it in a very small distance. This situation is shown in FIG. **10***c*.

Thereafter, the pipette tip **51** can be ejected. For this purpose, the actuating element **4** is pushed further downward with increased force. The overstroke spring **32** prevents the drive element **34** from continuing the downward motion. By the increased force, the magnet **40** is detached from the anchor **39** and the lifting rod **6** moves further downward and takes the lower stop body **27** along. With the projections **29**, the lower stop body **27** pushes the ejection lengthening **74** downward on the actuating ends **78**. The ejection lengthening **74** takes the ejection slide **72** along towards the downside, which pushes the pipette tip **51** off from the neck **50** with its ejection end **73**.

During the ejection stroke, the piston **58** is not moved downward any further in the cylinder **57**. As a result, no clearance volume is needed in the cylinder **57** at the downside, and the piston **58** does not hit the bottom of the cylinder **57**. When the magnet **40** is released from the anchor **39**, the force for relocating the actuating element **4** further downward is reduced again. The ejection is ended when the ejection lengthening **74** hits a not depicted ejection stop in the casing. This situation is shown in FIG. **10***d*.

After releasing the actuating element **4**, the pipette **1** reverts automatically into the starting position of FIGS. **1**, **2**, **5**, **6** and **10***a*. In this, the ejection spring **108** pushes the ejection lengthening **74** upward, and with it the ejection slide **72**. Further, the uncoupling spring **43** pushes upward the lifting rod **6** with the magnet **40**, until the magnet **40** is held fast on the anchor **39** by the magnetic forces. Further, the overstroke spring **31** pushes the lower stop body **27** upward until the projections **29** have reached the upper ends of the guide slots **30**. Further, the piston spring pushes upward the piston **58**, the

drive element **34** and via the uncoupling device **44** the lifting rod **6**, until the collar **25** sits close to the threaded spindle **8**.

In a further variant, the uncoupling device **44**, **43** can be omitted in order to perform the stroke, overstroke and ejection stroke. The lifting rod **6** acts directly on the conical indentation of the piston **58**.

The upper part **2** of the casing can be connected just simply with another, lower part **3** of the casing so as to form a casing, wherein the cylinder **57** and the piston **58** have another cross section. Correspondingly, the same upper part **2** of the casing can be used for making pipettes **1** having different metering volumes. Further, it is possible to replace the lower part **3** of the casing or the upper part **2** of the casing easily in case of a trouble, or to equip the upper part **2** of the casing with another lower part **3** of the casing if needed. In addition, the lower part **3** of the casing can be removed easily from the upper part **2** of the casing for purposes of maintenance, repair and cleaning.

The pipette **1** has a factory calibration, i.e. it is calibrated by the manufacturer of the pipette **1**. The settings of the counter mechanism **23** and the threaded spindle **8** are matched for this purpose. In this matching, the threaded ring **92** is adjusted such that the numeral 0 can be seen through the window **106**.

The user can perform a user calibration by rotating the toothed driving wheel **100** in the one or the other direction by means of a polygon key. In this, the threaded ring **92** on the external thread **91** is relocated axially. The lower stop body **27**, which is pushed against the lower edge of the threaded ring **92** by the overstroke spring **31**, is also axially relocated correspondingly. Through this, the stroke is also changed which the lifting rod **6** performs when the collar **25** is relocated from the threaded spindle **8** up to the lower stop body **27**. An axially directed projection **108** next to the uppermost tooth of the axially directed toothing **95** prevents the toothed driving wheel **100** from disengaging from the toothing **95** (FIG. **9**).

In order to adjust the threaded ring **9**, the user may be provided with tables which indicate the marks **104** to be adjusted into the window **106** depending on the surroundings conditions (pressure, temperature) and the properties of the liquid to be pipetted (density, surface tension). Alternatively, the user can determine suitable settings by measurements himself, and set them in the user calibration.

The factory calibration can be easily found again by rotating the threaded ring **92** such that that the zero numeral is visible in the window **106**.

The above disclosure is intended to be illustrative and not exhaustive. This description will suggest many variations and alternatives to one of ordinary skill in this art. All these alternatives and variations are intended to be included within the scope of the claims where the term "comprising" means "including, but not limited to". Those familiar with the art may recognize other equivalents to the specific embodiments described herein which equivalents are also intended to be encompassed by the claims.

Further, the particular features presented in the dependent claims can be combined with each other in other manners within the scope of the invention such that the invention should be recognized as also specifically directed to other embodiments having any other possible combination of the features of the dependent claims. For instance, for purposes of claim publication, any dependent claim which follows should be taken as alternatively written in a multiple dependent form from all prior claims which possess all antecedents referenced in such dependent claim if such multiple dependent format is an accepted format within the jurisdiction (e.g. each claim depending directly from claim **1** should be alternatively taken as depending from all previous claims). In jurisdictions where multiple dependent claim formats are restricted, the following dependent claims should each be also taken as alternatively written in each singly dependent claim format which creates a dependency from a prior antecedent-possessing claim other than the specific claim listed in such dependent claim below.

This completes the description of the preferred and alternate embodiments of the invention. Those skilled in the art may recognize other equivalents to the specific embodiment described herein which equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the claims attached hereto.

LIST OF THE USED REFERENCE SIGNS

1 pipette
2 upper part of the casing
3 lower part of the casing
4 actuating element
5 cover of the actuating element
6 cylindrical lifting rod
7 upper passage channel
8 threaded spindle
9 spindle nut
10 lifting body
11 spindle driving tenon
12 hexagon
13 hole
14 hexagon socket
15, **16** radial projections
17, **18** grooves
19 transmission part
20 toothed ring
21 counter gear system
22 counter wheels
23 counter mechanism
24 casing cover
25 bead-like collar
26 lower front side
27 lower stop body
28 lower passage channel
29 projections
30 guide slots
31 overstroke spring
32 overstroke spring support
33 guide-through hole
34 drive element
35 upper sleeve portion
36 lower sleeve portion
37 tip in the shape of a truncated cone
38 further collar
39 hollow cylindrical anchor
40 hollow cylindrical magnet
41 pot
42 needle-shaped portion
43 uncoupling spring
44 uncoupling device
45 lower casing opening
46 means for detachable connection
47 hollow cylindrical portion
48 upper hollow cone portion
49 lower hollow cone portion
50 conical neck
51 pipette tip
52 upper opening
53 lower opening
54 further means for detachable connection
55 extension

56 connection channel
57 cylinder
58 piston
59 O-ring
60 piston seal
61 needle-shaped extension
62 passage opening
63 piston disc
64 conical indentation
65 cylindrical closing cap
67 upper casing opening
68 projections
69 indentation
70 piston spring
71 ejection device
72 ejection slide
73 ejection end
74 ejection lengthening
75 ejection rod
76 ejection ring
77 upper ejection spring support
78 actuating end
79 bridge
80 lower ejection spring support
81 ejection spring
82 lower hollow cylindrical portion
83 upper hollow cylindrical portion
84 annular disc shaped shoulder
85 spring strut
86 indentation
87 latch element
88 latch element
89 slot
90 recess
91 external thread
92 screw ring
93 internal thread
94 further annular disc shaped shoulder
95 axially directed toothing
96 helical line
97 bearing
98 breaking-through
99 catch groove
100 toothed driving wheel
101 shaft
102 catch bead
103 tool application device
104 marks
105 further helical line
106 window
107 hole
108 axial projection

The inventin claimed is:

1. A pipette with

a rod-shaped casing (**2**, **3**),

a seat (**50**) for detachably holding a pipette tip (**51**) on the lower end of the casing (**2**, **3**),

a displacement equipment, comprising a displacement chamber (**57**) with a relocatable limit (**58**),

a connection channel (**56**), connecting the displacement chamber (**57**) with an opening in the seat,

a drive equipment for relocating the relocatable limit (**58**) of the displacement chamber (**57**), coupled to the relocatable limit (**58**) and having an axially relocatable lifting rod (**6**),

an upper stop body (**8**), a lower stop body (**27**) and a stop element (**25**) on the circumference of the lifting rod (**6**) for limiting the stroke of the lifting rod (**6**),

an overstroke spring (**31**), via which the lower stop body (**8**) is supported against relocation towards the downside on an overstroke spring support (**32**),

a stationary screw element (**10**), fixedly connected to the casing (**2**, **3**), and with a screw element (**92**) that is relocatable in the casing and is engaged to the stationary screw element (**10**) and is coupled to the lower stop body (**27**) in order to relocate it in the axial direction of the lifting rod (**6**) when the relocatable screw element (**92**) is being relocated,

a toothing (**95**), running along a helical line (**96**) with the same pitch as that of the thread (**93**) of the relocatable screw element (**92**) and having teeth on the upper edge of the relocatable screw element (**92**) that are directed in the direction of the instantaneous axis of the relocatable screw element (**92**),

a toothed driving wheel (**100**), rotatably mounted on a bearing (**97**) that is fixedly connected to the casing (**2**, **3**), and being engaged with the toothing (**95**) of the relocatable screw element (**92**), and

means (**103**) for rotating the toothed driving wheel (**100**).

2. The pipette according to claim **1**, wherein the relocatable screw element (**92**) is a threaded ring, disposed concentrically to the lifting rod and having a thread (**93**) on the circumference, which has the toothing (**95**) at the topside and rests on the lower stop body (**27**) at the downside.

3. The pipette according to claim **2**, wherein the stationary screw element (**10**) is a hollow cylindrical lifting body which has an external thread (**91**) at the outer circumference to which an internal thread (**93**) on the inner circumference of the threaded ring (**92**) is engaged, the lifting body (**10**) has several axially extending slots (**89**), the lower stop body (**27**) is arranged in the lifting body (**10**) and the lower stop body (**27**) has several outwardly projecting projections (**29**) which grip through the slots (**89**) and have portions that jut out of the lifting body (**10**) and on which the threaded ring (**92**) is seated.

4. The pipette according to claim **3**, wherein the overstroke spring support (**32**) is disposed in the lifting body (**10**), and the overstroke spring (**31**) is disposed in the lifting body (**10**) between the lower stop body (**27**) and the overstroke spring support (**32**).

5. A pipette according to claim **1**, wherein the upper stop body (**8**) is a threaded spindle which is screwed into a spindle nut (**9**) that is fixedly connected to the casing (**2**, **3**), and which has an upper passage channel (**7**) through which the lifting rod (**6**) is guided, and/or the lower stop body (**27**) is circular disc shaped and has a lower passage channel (**28**) through which the lifting rod (**6**) extends.

6. The pipette according to claim **5**, wherein the lifting body (**10**) is fixedly connected to the spindle nut (**9**) at the topside.

7. A pipette according to claim **3**, wherein the bearing (**97**) of the toothed driving wheel (**100**) is fixedly connected to the lifting body (**10**) above the external thread (**91**).

8. A pipette according to claim **1**, wherein the lifting body (**10**) is connected to the casing via a snap connection.

9. A pipette according to claim **1**, wherein the stationary screw element (**10**) and the relocatable screw element (**92**) are bevel wheels or contrate wheels.

10. A pipette according to claim **1**, which has an indicating equipment (**92**, **104**, **106**) for indicating the position of the lower stop body (**27**).

11. The pipette according to claim **10**, wherein the threaded ring (**92**) has marks (**104**) at the outer circumference, spaced

apart from each other in the circumferential direction, and the casing has a window (**106**) for reading a mark (**104**) that is disposed under the window (**106**).

12. The pipette according to claim **11**, wherein the marks (**104**) on the circumference of the toothed drive wheel (**100**) are disposed on a further helical line (**105**), whose pitch corresponds to the pitch of the thread (**93**) of the relocatable screw element (**92**).

13. A pipette according to claim **1**, wherein the toothed drive wheel (**100**) has a tool application device (**103**) for rotating the toothed drive wheel and the casing has a hole (**107**) through which the tool application device (**103**) is accessible my means of a tool that is introduced into the hole (**107**) from the outside.

14. A pipette according to claim **1**, which has means for limiting (**108**) the rotation of the relocatable screw element (**92**), so that the highest tooth of the toothing (**95**) cannot disengage from the toothed drive wheel (**100**).

15. A pipette according to claim **1**, wherein the toothing (**95**) of the relocatable screw element (**92**) is limited by an axial projection (**108**) next to the highest tooth, which blocks the toothed drive wheel (**100**) at the end of the axial toothing (**95**).

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